

# **California Natural Gas Stakeholders Working Group (NGWG+) Workshop**

**STAFF WORKSHOP  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Purpose:** The state's Natural Gas Working Group and the California Energy Commission will hold a workshop to discuss natural gas issues affecting California. The workshop is open to all individuals interested in natural gas. The purpose of this, and subsequent workshops, is to increase the informal dialogue between the state agencies and all parties involved in natural gas use, supply, transport, and markets.

**Date:** **Thursday, December 8, 2005**  
**Beginning at 9:30 a.m.**

**Location:** **California Energy Commission**  
**1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814 (see map on reverse)**  
**Hearing Room A (Wheelchair Accessible)**

**Teleconference:** For those unable to attend the workshop in person, a toll-free teleconference number will be provided. The phone number and password will be posted on the Energy Commission's website at [www.energy.ca.gov/naturalgas](http://www.energy.ca.gov/naturalgas) with the agenda by Dec 6.

**Workshop Summary:** The State of California formed the Natural Gas Working Group (NGWG). The Energy Commission chairs this group of state agencies involved in all aspects of natural gas in California. The Energy Commission, on behalf of the NGWG, filed a proposal (attached) in June 2005 with the California Public Utilities Commission to start holding biannual meetings with all parties interested in natural gas in California. The purpose of this workshop is to increase the informal dialogue between the California state agencies and the parties involved in natural gas. The agencies will be prepared at this workshop to provide briefings on a variety of topics currently of interest to California. However, the agencies would prefer to talk less and listen more to the concerns and suggestions from the parties. The agencies intend to use this information to improve their understanding of California's natural gas context and refine their work agendas for the coming year. The parties who attend are encouraged to ask questions, offer recommendations, and express concerns on natural gas issues. Since this is an informal event, it should not be considered to be in lieu of any regulatory or policy proceeding.

Parties are encouraged to submit agenda items that they wish to have addressed at the workshop to David Maul at the e-mail address below by December 5. The agenda for the workshop will be posted by December 6, 2005.

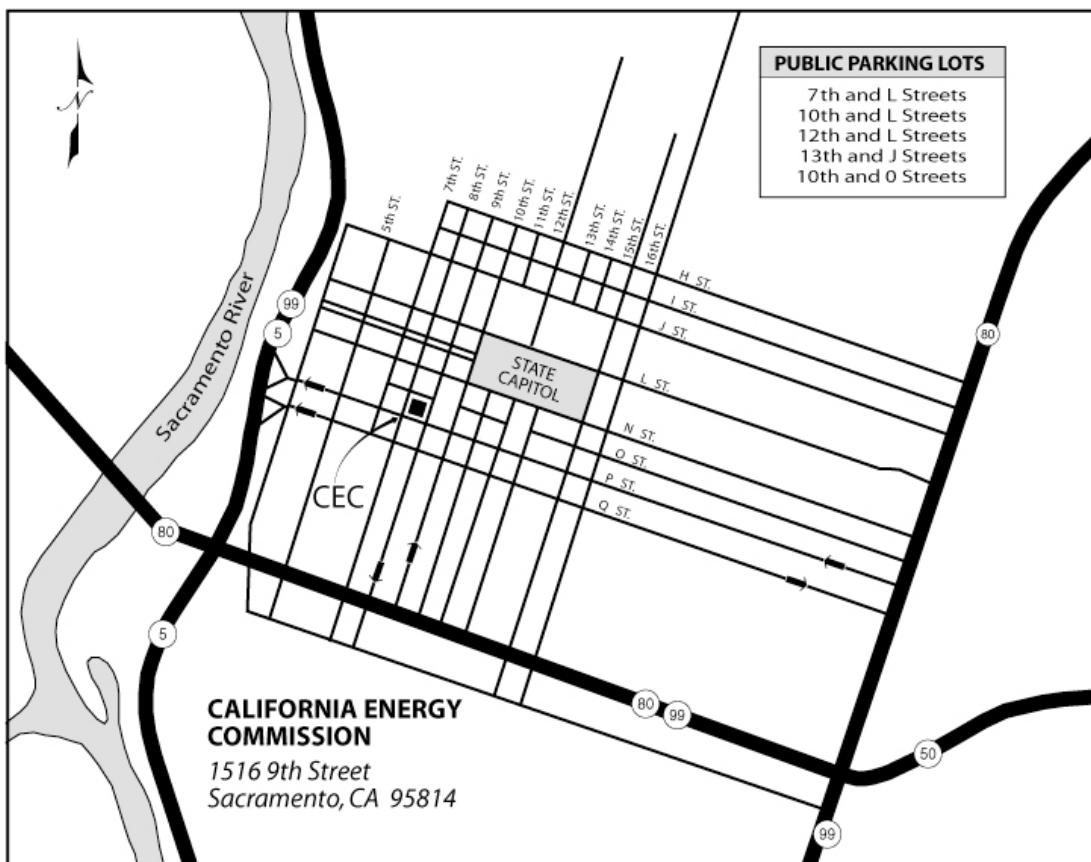
**Questions:** General information on this workshop can be obtained by contacting David Maul, at (916) 654-3941, or e-mail at: <[dmaul@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:dmaul@energy.state.ca.us)> , or Jairam Gopal, at (916) 654-4880, or e-mail at : [<jgopal@energy.state.ca.us>](mailto:jgopal@energy.state.ca.us).

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Maul, Manager  
Natural Gas and Special Projects Office  
California Energy Commission

**California Natural Gas Stakeholders Working Group (NGWG+) Workshop**  
**Map to California Energy Commission Building**

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**  
**(916) 651-8853**



# **California Natural Gas Infrastructure Stakeholders Working Group (CNGISWG)**

## **PROPOSAL**

### **Summary:**

The California Public Utilities Commission has requested the Natural Gas Working Group (NGWG) to propose a framework that establishes a broader working group to monitor California's natural gas (NG) infrastructure and operations. The California Energy Commission currently chairs the NGWG, a group composed of the state agencies involved in NG. The CPUC request is consistent with discussions within the NGWG which have explored an expansion to include non-agency stakeholders. This outline proposes to modify the NGWG meeting schedule and establish a new group to meet this expanded need. Individual agencies and groups of agencies will continue to meet with other parties as needed on an informal and formal basis.

### **Purpose:**

Establish a working group that allows more frequent discussion and exchange of information on California's natural gas context, focusing on supply, infrastructure needs and operations, and emerging issues.

### **Objectives:**

1. Monitor California and western U.S. NG demand,
2. Monitor NG supply from instate and out of state sources,
3. Monitor interstate NG pipeline operations,
4. Monitor intrastate NG pipeline operations,
5. Monitor instate and out of state NG storage operations,
6. Monitor the adequacy of California's natural gas infrastructure,
7. Monitor NG market prices important to California consumers,
8. Identify emerging issues that could potentially affect the above,
9. Ensure that Working Group members have a common information set on these issues,
10. Seek additional viewpoints and information that could benefit Working Group participants and California consumers,
11. Establish a reporting system that provides timely alerts on near term issues, as needed, and
12. Establish working relationships that encourage an open and informal exchange of information and discussion between the participants.

**Structure:**

1. Establish a California Natural Gas Infrastructure Stakeholders Working Group (CNGISWG, or NGWG+),
  - a. Membership of the NGWG+ would be self-selected and composed of all stakeholders interested in California's NG supply and infrastructure,
  - b. The NGWG+ would:
    - i. meet biannually in January and July of each year,
    - ii. meetings would be held in northern California and southern California on an alternating basis,
    - iii. these meetings would be open to any interested party with a stake in California's NG future,
    - iv. the meetings would be advertised on the Energy Commission's and the California Public Utilities Commission's websites,
    - v. these meetings are for informal discussion only and no summary report will be issued,
    - vi. additional structure for this working group can be determined after its initial meeting.
2. Modify the Natural Gas Working Group,
  - a. Maintain the current monthly Natural Gas Working Group (NGWG) meetings (see attachment 1 for attendees),
  - b. Invite the California natural gas investor-owned utilities to attend the NGWG meetings on a quarterly basis,
    - i. these quarterly meetings would occur in a month preceding each season in time to take last-minute action if needed to avert potential problems (e.g., April, July, October, and January),
    - ii. the meetings would be informal and not recorded,
    - iii. these meetings are for the purpose of exploring possible problems with California's natural gas infrastructure and operations and potential solutions that benefit consumers,
    - iv. a sunset date of July 2007, extendable as determined by the group, would be established to consider the need to continue these meetings.
3. The California Energy Commission offers to organize these new working groups and initially chair them, with the formal chair to be selected by each group on a permanent or rotating basis.

**Natural Gas Working Group  
(NGWG)**

**Participants**

- A. California State Agencies
  - i. California Air Resources Board
  - ii. California Energy Commission
  - iii. California Public Utilities Commission
  - iv. California State Lands Commission
  - v. Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
  - vi. Department of General Services, Natural Gas Services Program
  - vii. Department of Water Resources, California Energy Resources Scheduling
  - viii. Office of Planning and Research

**California Natural Gas Infrastructure Stakeholders Working  
Group  
(NGWG+)**

**Participants**

Open to all interested parties with information to exchange affecting California's natural gas future.